

REMARKS

Claims 37-40 and 51-56 are pending in the subject application. Claims 54-56 are withdrawn from consideration as a result of the Examiner's instant restriction requirement, a response to which is filed concurrently herewith. Claims 24-26, 37, 38, 40, 44-46 are withdrawn from consideration as the result of an earlier restriction requirement (PTO paper no. 10). Claims 1-23, 27-36, 41-43, and 47-50 were cancelled without prejudice in a preliminary amendment filed, August 22, 2001. In view of the Examiner's restriction requirements, Applicant(s) reserves the right to present the above-identified withdrawn claims in a one or more divisional applications.

Claim 39 was amended merely to present the subject matter of that claim in independent form. The amendment also was necessary to comply with the restriction requirement mailed 07/10/2003. Elected claim 39 was dependent on non-elected claim 37 and claim 37 was dependent upon cancelled claim 31. No new matter has been added by virtue of this amendment and its entry is respectfully requested.

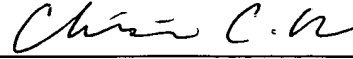
Applicants believe that no extension of time is required since this response is being filed before the expiration of the specified time period. Applicants, however, conditionally petition for an extension of time to provide for the possibility that such a petition has been inadvertently overlooked and is required.

Applicants believe that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within response. However, if for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Early consideration and allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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